

# The QA system in Belgium, in the French-speaking HE sector

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**Agence pour l'Évaluation de la Qualité  
de l'Enseignement Supérieur (AEQES)**  
Caty Duykaerts, head of executive unit  
[caty.duykaerts@aeqes.be](mailto:caty.duykaerts@aeqes.be)



# background data

## Key features of Belgium

Independence in 1830

Constitutional parliamentary monarchy

3 communities, 3 regions and a federal government

Population of 11 million inhabitants

(over 6 million in Flanders, 3.5 million in Wallonia and over 1 million in Brussels)

Brussels as an European and international capital

[further information : [www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be)]



# background data (2)

## Higher education in French-speaking Community

Freedom of education guaranteed by Constitution

Communities competences in education,  
culture, research and people-related affairs

Long academic tradition, great variety of HE providers  
and study programmes

HE is a public good : social dimension

appr. 205.000 students

79% in Bachelor, 16% in Master and 4% in PhD

Missions of HE : high-level training,  
fundamental and applied research,  
service to society,

(HE Act, 7 November 2013)



# IQA / EQA

- By law, the higher education institutions are bound to watch over and assure quality in all their missions... and therefore develop their own IQA systems
- By law, AEQES is responsible for assessing the quality of higher education and working for its continuous improvement

*How to support the development of a genuine quality culture within the HEIs ?*

Study : [http://www.aeqes.be/documents/influence-aeqes%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.aeqes.be/documents/influence-aeqes%20(3).pdf)



# AEQES key features

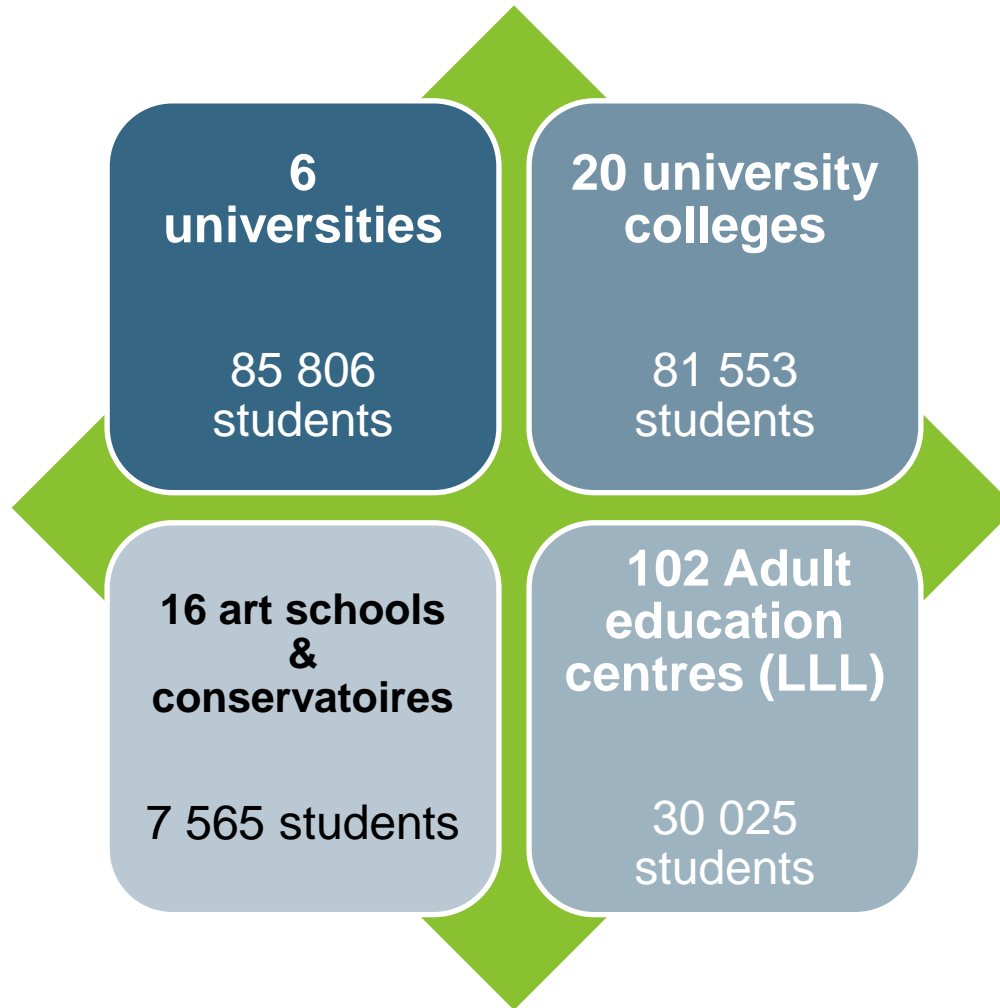
1. Independent public sector agency (since 2002)
2. formative QA evaluation process (fitness for purpose approach); hence no formal effects in terms of institution fundings or authorisation (AEQES is not an accreditation agency)
3. programme-based quality assurance (AEQES standards)  
scope : 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle degrees (bachelor and master of the four sectors, i.e. universities, university colleges, art schools and conservatoires, adult education centres)  
all similar programmes are evaluated simultaneously  
→ system-wide analysis
4. no ranking, no scores



# HE sector in FWB

figures 2011/12

(Cref-OES Saturn 2013)



# AEQES methodology

## AEQES reference framework (2012)

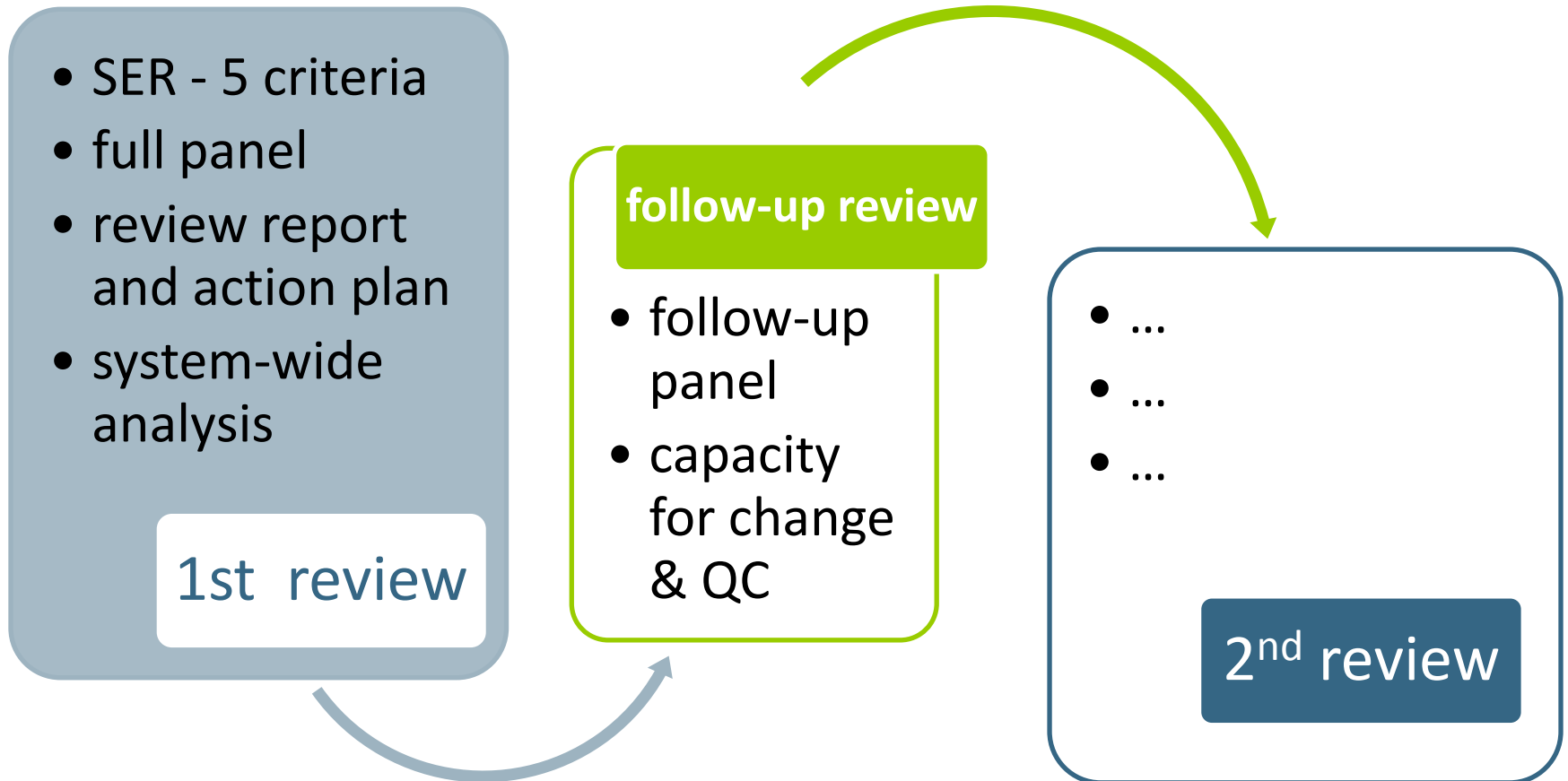
### Five criteria + guidelines

1. HEI implements a **policy** for maintaining its programmes quality
2. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **relevance...**
3. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **internal coherence...**
4. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **efficiency & equity...**  
**... of its study programmes**
5. HEI comes up with an action plan for **continuous improvement**

Special features of joint programmes are included in the framework



# IQA / EQA balance to support quality enhancement





# International and interregional cooperation so far...

- Agreement with the German-speaking community (**nursing** in 2010/11; **primary teacher** in 2013/2014)
- Joint evaluation/accreditation with CTI (**engineering programmes** in 2012/2013 and in 2015/2016)
- Joint evaluation with EAC/MusiQuE (**music** in 2014/2015)



any questions?  
thank you for your attention

[www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be)  
[caty.duykaerts@aeqes.be](mailto:caty.duykaerts@aeqes.be)

